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# USD Starts Community Development Program

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# NEWS RELEASE



## University of San Diego

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#### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### USD STARTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SAN DIEGO, Calif. --Students and faculty of the University of San Diego have started a program this week to extend the educational role of the University to the underprivileged children of San Diego.

Sister Irene Lawrence, professor of sociology, said that the program has been developed because of the feeling on the USD campus that a University has an obligation to the community in which it is located. Four separate projects comprise USD's community development program.

Children of families receiving welfare assistance in southeast San Diego are tutored by 18 volunteers. The tutors meet for one hour each week in the homes of the children. Testing determines the particular problems the tutors work to correct. David Cherry, associate professor of the University's Education Department advises the tutors.

A second phase of the community development program is directed toward the poor of Tijuana. Thirty students tutor Mexican children in English and distribute food to the poor. The volunteers also plan to build a temporary clinic for medical assistance. This program has been established in cooperation with the Mexican-American Neighbor Organization (MANO). Seniors Estela Gomez and Wilbierto Ruiz are student chairmen of the project.

Black and white students of the Logan Heights area are being aided by a Big Sister and Big Brother program. Volunteers from the University develop friendships with the children and their families. Big Sisters and Big Brothers take the children

(more)

various cultural and athletic activities on and off campus. Members of USD's three social fraternities, Phi Kappa Theta, Alpha Delta Gamma and Tau Kappa Epsilon act as Big Brothers.

St. Jude's and Our Lady of Angels Catholic churches are cooperating in the Big Sister and Big Brother project. Mrs. Mary Jane Warren, assistant professor of psychology, and Dr. Richard Coanda, associate professor of English, aid the students.

The program is under the direction of a student Board of Community Development. Senior economics major Charles Smith heads the board comprised of the chairmen of the four projects. Sister Lawrence and Fred I. Closson, assistant professor of sociology, are faculty representatives on the board.

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